

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OES-06

AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, EFIS, OVIP, JA (MIKI, TAKEO)

SUBJECT: MIKI-FORD SUMMIT: JAPANESE REACTION

1. JAPANESE MEDIA REACTION TO JUNE 30 MIKI-FORD MEETING IN WASHINGTON HAS BEEN LANGUID. IN ONLY EDITORIALS TO APPEAR SO FAR, YOMIURI AND TOKYO SHIMBUN SUGGEST THAT REASON NO IMPORTANT DECISIONS EMERGED FROM SUMMIT IS THAT BOTH LEADERS ARE PREOCCUPIED WITH DOMESTIC POLITICS. ON POSITIVE SIDE, BOTH PAPERS JUDGE THAT LACK OF PRESS AND PUBLIC EXCITEMENT HERE OVER MEETING REFLECT (A) THE PRESENT GOOD STATE OF US-JAPAN RELATIONS; AND (B) THAT "THE CATCH PHRASE, 'EQUAL PARTNERS' HAS BECOME AN ACTUAL REALITY."

2. REPORTING ON THE TALKS HERE HAS BEEN BASED ALMOST ENTIRELY ON MIKI'S PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER THE MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT. PRESS HIGHLIGHTED (A) EXCHANGE OF PLEDGES ON MANAGEMENT OF LOCKHEED AFFAIR; AND (B) MIKI'S PLEA THAT US GIVE DUE CONSIDERATION TO
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JAPANESE INTERESTS IN IMPLEMENTING NEW FISHERIES

LAW. SOME PAPERS ALSO EMPHASIZED PRESIDENT'S ASSURANCE THAT US HAS NOT DECIDED ON TIMETABLE FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH PRC, AND MIKI'S COMMENT THAT IT IS "UNTHINKABLE" THAT US WOULD MOVE IN THAT DIRECTION WITHOUT INFORMING GOJ.

3. REGARDING LOCKHEED CASE, PRESS REPORTS THAT MIKI SAID HE IS TRYING TO "SOLIDIFY THE BASIS OF DEMOCRACY IN JAPAN BY CLARIFYING IT THOROUGHLY," WHILE GUARDING AGAINST "A CRACK IN JAPANESE-AMERICAN RELATIONS." THE PRESIDENT IS SAID TO HAVE PROMISED "COOPERATION WITHIN THE SCOPE OF US LAW." JAPANESE PRESS FURTHER SAY THAT BOTH FORD AND MIKI "TOOK FORWARD-LOOKING POSTURE TOWARDS RESTRICTIONS ON MNC'S."

4. INITIAL REPORTS OF EXCHANGE OF FISHERIES SIMPLY HELD THAT THE PRESIDENT AVOIDED DIRECTLY REPLY TO MIKI'S LOW-KEY APPEAL, MERELY EXPRESSING HOPE THAT 200-MILE ISSUE WILL BE SETTLED IN SUMMER SESSION OF LOS CONFERENCE. IN PRESS CONFERENCE HERE ON JULY 1, AGRICULTURE MINISTER ABE AMPLIFIED SOMEWHAT. ACCORDING TO YOMIURI, ABE SAID THAT "NO NOTEWORTHY PROGRESS WAS MADE" TOWARD RESOLVING THE BILATERAL IMPASSE. ABE SAID THE PRESIDENT EXPLAINED THAT EXECUTIVE BRANCH HAD SOUGHT UNSUCCESSFULLY "TO IMPROVE THE CONTENTS" OF THE NEW FISHERIES LAS AND TO DEFER DATE IT GOES INTO EFFECT. ABE ATTRIBUTED TO SECRETARY KISSINGER STATEMENT THAT "IF AGREEMENT IS REACHED ON 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE AT THE LOS CONFERENCE IN AUGUST, JAPAN AND THE US WILL BE ABLE TO NEGOTIATE FLEXIBILITY ON THE FISHERIES PROBLEM."
SHOESMITH

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